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ZNY CCCCC ZZN
R 220519Z SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5786
RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 755
RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 48
RUSSCO/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 933G
RUENMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1925
RUSBCS/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7424
RUGMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 498
RUDKRV/AMEMBASSY VARSAN 58 ✓
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7025

E.O. 12865: GDS 9/19/85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) GR-M
TAGS: PINT AF UR
SUBJ: COMMENTS BY TWO EASTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES ON AFGHAN
POLITICAL SITUATION

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. I THINK IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPTMENT IF I
SHARED SOME COMMENTS GLEANED FROM GDR CHARGE KLAUS MASER
AND POLISH AMBASSADOR EDWARD BARADZIEJ. OVER THE LAST
TWO DAYS, I PAID CALLS ON THEM TO ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS
ON THE LOCAL SITUATION. I SOUGHT THEM OUT DELIBERATELY
SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN MORE OPEN AND FRIENDLY TOWARDS US
THAN THE OTHER PRO-MOSCOW EMBASSY CHIEFS OF MISSION.

3. THE MOST IMPORTANT TIDBITS GATHERED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

-- ES-PRESIDENT TARAKI IS ALIVE AND BEING HELD WITH

HIS FAMILY IN DETENTION IN A GOVERNMENT VILLA

IN KABUL. HIS RESIDENCE IS GUARDED BY SOLDIERS.

--BOTH ENVOYS CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN DISSENSION WITHING
THE PDPA PARTY PRIOR TO THE LATEST PURGE. BOTH DISPUTED THE
WIDELY HELD OPINION AMONG WESTERN EMBASSIES THAT WITHIN THE PARTY
TARAKI HAD HAD A LARGER FOLLOWING THAN HAFIZULLAH AMIN. THE
POLISH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT TARAKI'S "CULT OF PERSONALITY" HAD
BEEN OFFENSIVE TO MANY PARTY MEMBERS, AND THIS HAD CONTRIBUTED
TO HIS LACK OF SUPPORT. HE ALSO SAID THAT TARAKI FAILED TO
TAKE EVEN THE MOST ELEMENTARY STEPS TO BUILD A FOLLOWING,
SUCH AS PAYING VISITS TO FACTORIES, SCHOOLS AND OTHER WORKING
ESTABLISHMENTS. WHEN I OBSERVED THAT HAFIZULLAH AMIN NEVER
PAID SUCH VISITS EITHER, THE POLE RESPONDED THAT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY

OF THE PARTY LEADER TO SET THE EXAMPLE. THE POLE ALSO FAULTED TARAKI FOR NOT CONSULTING THE PARTY MCE. SINCE NOV. 1978 UNTIL HIS FALL--A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS--THERE HAD BEEN NO MEETING OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. (THE POLITBURO, THOUGH, MET FREQUENTLY.)

-- BOTH DIPLOMATS CONFIRMED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS FOR SOME TIME NOT BEEN HAPPY ABOUT FACTIONALISM IN THE PARTY. THE POLE WAS EXPLICIT IN STATING THAT A YEAR AGO THE SOVIETS WERE DISTRESSED ABOUT THE PURGING OF THE PARHAMISTS. HE SAID THAT MOSCOW HAD FROM THE START BEEN ENCOURAGING "UNITY OF ALL PROGRESSIVE ELEMENTS." THOUGH CIRCUMSPECT IN THEIR REMARKS, BOTH ENVOYS MADE PLAIN THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT PLEASED ABOUT THE RECENT DISPUTE AND PURGE WITHIN THE TOP RANKS OF THE PARTY, WHICH SAW TARAKI AND THE THREE MILITARY-ORIGIN CABINET MEMBERS REMOVED.

-- THE POLE SAID THAT THE DUUMVIRATE OF TARAKI AND AMIN COULD NOT HAVE LASTED LONG. IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT ONE OR THE OTHER WOULD EVENTUALLY PREVAIL, HE SAID.

-- NEITHER ENVOY THOUGHT THE SOVIETS HAD A DIRECT HAND IN THE REMOVAL OF TARAKI. IN FACT, THE POLE WAS SURE THAT MOSCOW WAS EMBARRASSED BY IT SINCE ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE BREZHNEV HAD GIVEN A BEARHUG TO TARAKI IN MOSCOW. HE SAID. "THIS MUST BE KL EMBARRASSING TO MOSCOW".

-- THE GDR CHARGE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE THREE FIRED MILITARY-ORIGIN CABINET MEMBERS WERE SOMEWHERE AT LARGE. THE POLE REFUSED TO VENTURE AN OPINION AS TO THEIR WHEREABOUTS.

4. COMMENT: THESE ARE NOT WEIGHTY HORSELS BUT I LEAVE THEM WITH YOU.

AMSTUTZ